

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 10367 040506Z

ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 IO-06 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00

NSC-05 SS-14 DODE-00 /047 W

-----090032 050023Z /14

R 040442Z AUG 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2195

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10367

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INTERVIEWS OF RECENT BOAT REFUGEE ARRIVALS

1. GROUP OF 48 REFUGEES SAILED FROM VIETNAM AND ENCOUNTERED THAI SHIP. AFTER SOME BARGAINING, THAI CAPTAIN AGREED TO TAKE REFUGEES AND BOAT TO MALAYSIAN WATERS FOR TEN TAELES (TAELE IS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN OUNCE) OF GOLD. AFTER BEING DROPPED IN MALAYSIAN WATERS, REFUGEE BOAT SAILED IN WRONG DIRECTION AND WAS AT SEA 21 DAYS BEFORE ENCOUNTERING NEXT SHIP. THEY RAN OUT OF FOOD AND WATER AND ONE REFUGEE DIED. NEXT SHIP WAS SOVIET, EITHER CARGO OR OCEANIC SURVEY VESSEL. SOVIET SHIP BROUGHT REFUGEES AND BOAT NEAR HONG KONG WATERS, BUT IMPRESSED ON REFUGEES THEY SHOULD NOT REVEAL WHO ASSISTED THEM. AFTER BEING OFFLOADED, REFUGEES ENCOUNTERED JAPANESE SHIP WHICH BROUGHT THEM INTO HONG KONG.

2. GROUP OF 13 REFUGEES LEFT DANANG IN SMALL BOAT. ENGINE BROKE DOWN, BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO REACH HAINAN ISLAND. THEY MET GROUP OF 9 REFUGEES THERE WHO ASKED TO JOIN THEM FOR TRIP TO HONG KONG. WHEN BOAT ENGINE COULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 10367 040506Z

NOT BE REPAIRED, PRC AUTHORITIES OFFERED SELL COMBINED GROUP A BOAT FOR 7,600 YUAN. ALL REFUGEES COULD OFFER WERE SOME VALUABLES WORTH APPROXIMATELY 600 YUAN. PRC OFFICIAL IN MILITARY UNIFORM AGREED ACCEPT THIS ON CONDITION THAT REFUGEES SIGN PROMISSORY NOTE TO PAY BALANCE AFTER RESETTLEMENT. NOTE WAS SIGNED AND REFUGEES REACHED HONG KONG IN PRC BOAT.

3. BOTH GROUPS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, ETHNIC VIETNAMESE. ONE RECENT ARRIVAL TOLD US THAT THERE ARE UP TO 2,000 SINO-VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON HAINAN ISLAND WAITING FOR HONG KONG FISHING BOATS TO BRING THEM TO HONG KONG. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE CONFIRM THIS FROM OTHER RECENT ARRIVALS, BUT THERE COULD WELL BE A NUMBER OF REFUGEES, AS PARA 2 ILLUSTRATES, WHO REACHED HAINAN AND WISH TO TRAVEL ON TO HONG KONG.
SHOESMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK10367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780320-0169
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780899/aaaaderr.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8afc356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1838685
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERVIEWS OF RECENT BOAT REFUGEE ARRIVALS
TAGS: SREF, HK, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8afc356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014